18. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit has been raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.

19. Under the Employee Stock Option Scheme, income tax payable on income from GDRs purchased in foreign currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.

20. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

21. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can now be reconverted in to ADRs/GDRs, subejct to sectoral caps.

22. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

23. Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Revival of sugar trade with Pakistan

*455. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate prices of sugar in India and Pakistan; and

(b) the action taken to negotiate for revival of sugar trade with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) According to available information, the price of sugar in Lahore Akbari Market of Pakistan was Rs. 2400/2500 (Pakistani Rupees) per quintal as on 8th August, 2001, while the wholesale price of S-30 grade of sugar in four principal markets in India, viz., Delhi, Kolkatta, Mumbai and Chennai, as on 6th August, 2001 was in the range of Rs. 1370-Rs. 1580 per quintal.

(b) During his talks with the President of Pakistan in Agra on 15.7.2001, the Prime Minister of India proposed that a group of experts of both countries be constituted to recommend measures to increase bilateral trade and economic and technical interaction between the two countries.

Software Technology Parks

†*456. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to promote Information Technology Industry, Software Technology Parks are being established in different States;

(b) if so, the States and cities where such parks have been established till March, 2001, together with the number thereof; and

(c) the amount spent by Government on their establishment and the State Governments' contribution therein?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till March, 2001, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous Society under the Ministry of Information Technology has set up 19 Centres all over India. A list of States and Cities where these Centres have been established till March, 2001 is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) STPI has spent an amount of Rs. 78.85 Crores, received as Grant-in-aid from the Government, on the establishment of these STPI Centres. The State Governments' contribution has been to the tune of Rs. 6.75 Crores.

Statement

STPI has set up 19 centres including 18 International Gateways all over India

SN	STPI Centres	States
1	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
2	Bangalore	Karnataka
3	Calcutta	West Bengal
4	Chennai	Tamil Nadu

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.